

# Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



## Farmers With Disabilities

### Purpose and History

The Farmers with Disabilities Program was established by the 2011 General Assembly. The funding for Farmers with Disabilities is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs) and is transferred to the Iowa Easter Seals for the Rural Solutions Program.

The Rural Solutions Program assists farm family members and rural residents with a newly acquired disability. Members of the Rural Solutions Program Team are knowledgeable about resources available to assist rural family members with disabilities.

Services provided include:

- Evaluations of the agricultural work site and home living spaces – the team recommends changes that are needed for the family to continue the rural way of life.
- Peer support – volunteers that have experienced similar disabilities provide support to others that have recently been disabled.
- Services for all family members – volunteers provide services to the entire family unit.
- Information and referrals – the team connects the family with other community resources and agencies that can assist with their situation.
- Medical equipment loan services – medical equipment is loaned to the disabled person for a nominal fee.

### Funding History

The General Assembly appropriated \$97,000 from the Environment First Fund to the Iowa Easter Seals in FY 2012, however since then the annual appropriation has been \$130,000 from the General Fund.

Revised August 24, 2016

### More Information

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

Iowa Easter Seals Rural Solutions: <http://www.easterseals.com/ia/our-programs/rural-solutions/>

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